

IN THE CLAIMS

1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body consisting of a material and having a porosity of 2 to 12 vol.%, wherein the porosity comprises unconnected, closed pores, which are uniformly distributed in the material of the bodies, wherein the pores are spherical, wherein the pores have a nominal diameter of 10 μm to 48 μm and wherein a diameter the diameter of the particles of a of the pore-forming agent for the production of the pores is in the range of 18 μm to 57 μm before compaction of a green body to form the silicon carbide body.

15. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the pores have a nominal diameter of 15 μm to 45 μm .

16. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the of the material of the bodies comprises an inorganic component comprising 80% to 98% silicon carbide, 0.5% to 5% carbon, 0.3% to 5% boron and 0% to 20% of a hard material selected from the group consisting of a boride and a silicide.

17. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the of the material of the bodies comprises an inorganic component contains 85% to 98% silicon carbide, 1.5% to 4% carbon, 0.5% to 2% boron and 0% to 12% of a hard material.

18. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the silicon carbide is alpha-silicon carbide.

19. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the pore forming agent is a burnout material.

20. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 19, wherein ~~polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) is used as~~ the pore-forming agent polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA).

21. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 20, wherein the pore-forming agent is added in a quantity of 0.70 to 5.40 wt.%.

22. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein a ~~wherein the~~ proportion of said particles of the pore-forming agent with nominal diameters of between 30 μm and 45 μm is 80% of the total quantity of said particles.

Claims 23-25 (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A sintered silicon carbide body according to claim 14, wherein the pore forming agent is selected from the group consisting of a polymer, a wax, a starch and a cellulose.

27. (currently amended) A sintered silicon carbide body having a material and a porosity of 2 to 12 vol.%, wherein the porosity comprises unconnected, closed pores, which are uniformly distributed in the material of the bodies, wherein the pores are spherical, wherein the pores have a nominal diameter of 10 μm to 48 μm .